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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/780,106

02/17/2004

James B. Dale

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10/03/2006

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EXAMINER

DEVI, SARVAMANGALA J N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/780,106

Applicant(s)

DALE, JAMES B.

Examiner

S. Devi, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 ~~is~~/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

Species Election Requirement

- 1) Claims 1-27 are pending.
- 2) The instant application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct pleural hybrid fusion polypeptide species of the claimed invention:
 - (A) Bivalent hybrid fusion polypeptide comprising two immunogenic amino terminal polypeptide portions of Group A streptococcal M protein wherein at least one is selected from the group consisting of serotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28, 30, 48, 49, 52 and 56 (claims 2 and 7-13). Claims 1 and 14-27 are generic.
 - (B) Hexavalent hybrid fusion polypeptide comprising six immunogenic amino terminal polypeptide portions of Group A streptococcal M protein serotypes 1, 3, 5, 6, 19 and 24 (claims 4, 7 and 11). Claims 3, 14 and 18-27 are generic.
 - (C) Decavalent hybrid fusion polypeptide comprising ten immunogenic amino terminal polypeptide portions of Group A streptococcal M protein serotypes 1, 3, 5, 6, 18, 19, 22, 24, 28 and 30 (claim 6). Claim 5 is generic.
 - (D) Hexavalent hybrid fusion polypeptide comprising six immunogenic amino terminal polypeptide portions of Group A streptococcal M protein serotypes wherein at least one is serotype 2, 11, 13, 22 or 28 (claims 8-10, 12 and 13). Claim 3 is generic.
- 3) If Applicant elected the pleural hybrid fusion polypeptide species (A) or (D), Applicant must further elect one of the serotypes identified therein.
- 4) As per *In re Harnisch*, 631 F.2d 716, 206 USPQ 300 (CCPA 1980), examination will be limited to a single distinct pleural hybrid fusion polypeptide species. While the pleural hybrid fusion polypeptide species have common utility, each lacks substantial structural similarity due to the diverse amino terminal polypeptide portions. As set forth above, there are pleural combination species of some individual subcombination species. Applicant should note that upon examination of the elected subcombination, and if that elected subcombination is found to be allowable, the Office would consider rejoining all combinations of that particular subcombination species.
- 5) Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

6) Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, Applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

7) Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600, AU 1645 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be transmitted via the PTO Central Fax number, (571) 273-8300, which receives transmissions 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.


8) Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAG or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.Mov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAA system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

9) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to S. Devi, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0854. A message may be left on the Examiner's voice mail system. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. except one day each bi-week, which would be disclosed on the Examiner's voice mail system.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Acting Supervisor, Albert Navarro, can be reached on (571) 272-0861.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

October, 2006


S. DEVI, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER